

5 Ways to Get Your Crush to Notice You



By Molly Jacob

Whether it's the new girl in your office or the cute barista at your local Starbucks that knows how to make your Caramel Macchiato just right, we all get crushes sometimes! The question is, how can you get your devoted to notice you so you can make that transition from crush to significant other? Cupid has some advice:

1. Wear some new cologne or perfume: Looking to get the eye of a crush? How about the turn of their nose? Apply some of your best *eau de toilette* when you know you'll be seeing your future honey. Distinctive smells will get them to notice and

remember you.

2. Put on something unique: This is also something that can get the attention of your love. Whether it's a bright red headband or a sweater with an interesting pattern, it makes you stand out to your crush and could possibly be a good conversation starter.

Related: [Signs Your Crush is Into You](#)

3. Pick up on the little things: Being thoughtful is always appreciated. Pay attention to the object of your affection when he or she talks about the joys or stresses in their day. If they mention they have a tough presentation at work tomorrow, ask them in a couple days how it went! Your interest in their life will get them to notice you and your kindness.

4. Show an interest: Your potential boo probably has hobbies and other fun activities they like to do in their free time, so find out about them. Is he interested in football? Ask him about his favorite team. Is she interested in Italian cooking? Ask her for some recipes.

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5. Body language: It is nerve-racking to be the person to make the first move, so let your gestures do the talking for you. Strong eye contact, leaning in during conversations, and lots of smiling gets the attention of your crush and lets them know that you're interested in taking it to the next level.

How do you get your crush to notice you? Share in the comments section below!

Khloe Kardashian 'Can't Even Get in Touch' With Lamar Odom to Finalize Divorce



By Maggie Manfredi

A quick marriage with a lengthy divorce! According to UsMagazine.com, Khloe Kardashian and Lamar Odom are still legally married. The reality starlet is finding it impossible to track down her ex while he refuses to sign any divorce documents. The former New York Knicks player is staying out of the spotlight, unlike Khloe, who is set for another E! season starting in November.

What are some ways to move things along in a divorce process?

Cupid's Advice:

Divorce is messy, tough and sometimes expensive. Cupid has some advice for getting through it:

1. Be prepared: This could mean different things for different people. Whether you need to get your legal team together or work through your own emotions, make sure you go into it with a level head and a focus on the goal.

Related: [Source Says Kendra Wilkinson Is Going 'Back and Forth' About Divorce Decision](#)

2. Good people: Be with your family or friends, basically anyone who makes you feel better and keeps you strong through the process.

Related: [Heidi Klum and Seal Finalize Divorce After Two Years](#)

3. Ask for help: It can be hard to surrender to your situation and feelings, and doing it alone is really hard. So do not be shy seek counseling or company from friends. Work on yourself and then you will be able to deal with this loss in your life so you can move forward.

Who is your favorite Kardashian sister? Tell us why below!

Jennifer Lopez Says She Needs to Be Single Right Now





By Amanda Boyer

Jennifer Lopez appeared and chatted on 'The Meredith Viera Show' on Monday, September 8th. She officially revealed the news that she is newly single, and that is the way she likes it! According to UsMagazine.com when she was asked about her relationship status, she said, "I'm just being on my own. I feel like I need that right now." To leave the audience and Viera with some advice at the end of the show, she let everyone know that "all the relationships in your life and everything starts working when you take care of yourself."

What are some advantages to taking time to be single?

Cupid's Advice:

Freshly single and don't know what to do? Cupid has some tips so you can take full advantage of this time:

1. Work on yourself: This is time to concentrate on your goals and life, not someone else's. Go get a fresh new haircut and a mani-pedi. Do something different for a change to turn over a new leaf!

Related: [What Now? Transitioning from Married to Single](#)

2. Flirt: Have fun! Go out and find a cute guy to talk to. Being able to just casually hang out and talk to new guys is a fun part of being single and not tied down.

Related: [Did Robin Thicke and Paula Patton's Body Language Indicate A Split Was Coming?](#)

3. Reconnect with friends: Have a friend you lost touch with in the past year? Reach out to them and make lunch plans at your favorite restaurant!

What do you do when you are single? Share your insights below!

Should You Give Your Ex Another Chance?





By April Littleton

You and your ex broke things off pretty quickly, and now you're thinking about giving the romance a second try. Maybe the two of you are still in love, or perhaps you're finally on your way to being on friendly terms with your former flame. Either way, you might want to ask yourself some questions before you officially decide to rekindle the spark. Cupid has some advice:

1. The breakup: What caused you and your ex to split up in the first place? Did he/she cheat? Did you cheat? What was the ultimate deal breaker in your relationship, and how do you know for sure things will work out for the better the second time around? Remember, your ex is just that for a reason. Whatever problems the two of you had in the beginning will eventually bubble up to the surface. The issues won't magically disappear. If you expect your romance to flourish this time, be prepared to put in the work to make it happen.

2. Friends and family: What do your friends and family think about your former lover? Do they think you're better off

without him/her, or do they think the two of you might be able to work out your problems? Listen to the advice your loved ones give you. They know you better than you know yourself. They'll be able to clue you in on what exactly you need in your life right now – and it might not be your ex.

Related: [How to Prevent Yourself from Rushing into a Relationship](#)

3. Your feelings: Once you stop and think about it, you might realize you don't really want your ex back. Are you afraid of being on your own? If you were with your partner for awhile before splitting up, being single again could be a scary situation. You don't remember what it's like to date someone new. How do you even know when you're ready to meet another special someone? Take it a day at a time. You don't need to go back to someone who doesn't know how to treat you right. Eventually, you'll find someone who appreciates all that you are, but first, you have to love yourself.

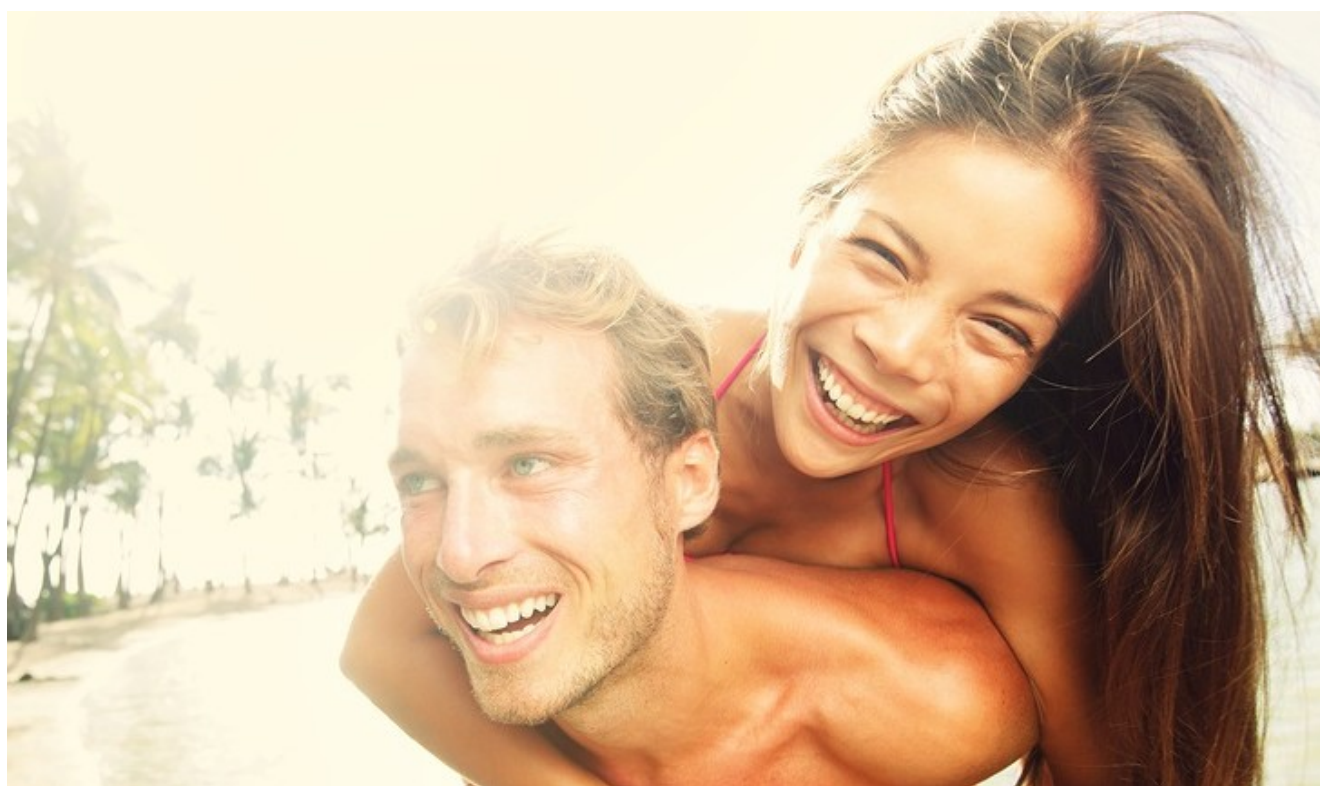
4. What will change: How certain are you that things will change the second time around? Your ex was still the same person he/she was when you broke up. A drastic change in their personality and/or behavior is highly unlikely – especially if they believe they played no part in the breakup. You can't go back to a relationship that can't be fixed, and you shouldn't want to risk being the person who is responsible for picking up all the broken pieces of a lackluster romance.

Related: [Signs Your Crush Is Into You](#)

5. The good versus the bad: You might be able to salvage the relationship if the good outweighs the bad. Think about all the pros and cons to getting back together with your former significant other. Is the outcome worth it?

Did you give your ex another chance? Share your experience below.

How to Prevent Yourself from Rushing into a Relationship



By April Littleton

Rushing into a new relationship is never a good idea. You don't know the person you're dating well enough for a commitment, and you'll just end up right back where you started shortly after attempting the new romance. Take a step back from the dating scene and reevaluate what you want out of a partner. Cupid has some advice:

1. Really think about your feelings: Before you put yourself into a new relationship, take some time to really think about

what you want. Are your feelings for the person you're interested in real, or are you just rushing into something new because you can't stand the thought of being alone? Some individuals jump into one relationship after another because they're not used to being by themselves.

Related: [How to Get Over the Relationship Blues](#)

2. What you're looking for: What are you looking for in a partner? Are you looking for someone who makes you laugh? How important is trust and honesty to you? How well do you really know your new significant other? In order to really get to know someone and their intentions, you need to take the necessary time to feel each other out. Don't settle for anything less than what you want. So, if your new partner doesn't fit the bill, there's no need to be in a relationship with them.

3. Keep dating: Let the person you're interested in know that you will continue to see other people, and they should do the same. Be direct about what you want. If your new honey was hoping for something a little more exclusive, then make what you want out of a serious relationship clear before you commit. Until then, continue to get to know other people and have fun being single.

Related: [Can You Be Single and Still Have a Soulmate?](#)

4. Don't worry: Don't spend every waking minute thinking about dating. Instead of going out with a potential partner every Friday night, spend some time hanging out with your girls or family members. Now is the time to really enjoy some "you" time. Get comfortable in your own skin, and realize you don't HAVE to be in a relationship with anyone until you're fully ready. When the time is right, your epic love will be waiting for you around the corner.

5. Get to know yourself: Don't lose sight of yourself. Take up some of your old hobbies, or pick up some new ones. Do things

for yourself that don't involve dating. Some individuals forget who they are while in a relationship. Don't let that happen to you. Besides, independence is a turn-on.

Related: [How Weight Can Affect Your Love Life](#)

6. No future talk: Avoid talking about any future plans with your potential honey. There shouldn't be any conversations about marriage, family, moving in together, etc. Take your relationship slow. Conversations about kids and long-term commitment might scare the other person off. Plus, you're more than likely not ready for that kind of relationship anyway.

What are some other ways to prevent yourself from rushing into a relationship? Comment below.

How to Turn Your Spring Fling Into the Real Thing





By Rachel Sussman

Spring is officially here and love is in the air. In order for new romances to blossom this season, singles need to face the always unpredictable and often times stressful first date. Before setting a time and place, there are some important factors to consider in order to make a good first impression on a new fling based on the helpful findings from a recent report released by ChristianMingle and JDate.

The goal of any first date is to hit it off well enough to secure the coveted second date and hopefully lay the foundation for a successful, long-term relationship. But we all know there are things we can do – and things we can avoid doing – that can help our chances in any dating scenario. In the report, U.S. singles weighed in to reveal the rules of first dates when it comes to eating, drinking and general dinner etiquette, as well as the biggest turnoffs and deal breakers when it comes to courtship. Here are the top five dating rules and deal breakers needed to turn your spring fling into the real thing:

1. Keep eating habits in check – 50 percent of singles agree that the biggest faux pas when it comes to food on the first date is being a messy eater. And think twice before ordering for a date! This is the second biggest food faux pas, as 20 percent of women don't want a man ordering for her and 17 percent of men feel the same.

2. Be mindful of cocktail consumption – When it comes to drinking on a first date, the majority of singles say one to two drinks is acceptable. And if a prospective partner gets drunk on the first date, 72 percent of men would look past it and go out with her again; though it's much tougher to get a second chance with women (only 41 percent would go out with a drunk date again).

3. It's OK if the guy pays for dinner – When reaching for the bill, two-thirds of all respondents feel the man should pay for the first date. Men tend to feel stronger about this, with 69 percent saying the man should pay, and 55 percent of women agree.

4. Take a shower and quit smoking – Hygiene is a top deal breaker for both men and women, so make sure *not* to skip a shower before a date. For men, the top three dating deal breakers are hygiene (35 percent), smoking (24 percent) and weight (14 percent); and for women, it's hygiene (34 percent), unemployment (21 percent), and a tie for third between drinking habits and smoking (16 percent each).

5. Make a good impression on their friends – If a date's friends come into the equation, making a good impression is key. The majority of singles (66 percent) would break up with someone if they didn't get along with his or her friends.

While no two dates are alike, it is important to treat the above findings as a check list in order to leave a good – and lasting – impression on any date. This spring, be sure to follow these rules in order for your next first date to

hopefully become your last. Happy hunting!

Rachel Sussman is a relationship expert and licensed psychotherapist.

Mandy Hale Empowers Single Women in 'I've Never Been to Vegas, But My Luggage Has'



By Brittany Stubbs

Blogger-turned-author Mandy Hale is affectionately known around the world as “The Single Woman.” With a heart to

inspire single women to live their best lives without settling, she cuts to the heart of the matter with her inspirational, straight-talking, and often wildly humorous take on life and love. Her message reaches millions of women across the world every day through her blog, and with followers from all over the world, she has made a name for herself as the voice of empowerment and sassiness for single women across the globe.

In *I've Never Been to Vegas, But My Luggage Has: Mishaps and Miracles on the Road to Happily Ever After*, Hale delivers heart-warming and hilarious stories from her life filled with love and loss, glamour and goose bumps, faith and friendship, big dreams and battle scars. She shares even her darkest moments in witty, winsome ways that make her readers not only feel her pain but also laugh with her and apply her hard-won nuggets of inspiration to their own lives. In the end, "happily ever after" rarely looks and feels the way we imagined it would, but as Hale is learning – and as we can learn along with her – it is often *better!*

CupidsPulse.com had the pleasure of interviewing the author and getting to know more about her latest book.

We love the title of your book! Can you explain why you chose it and what it means?

The title is based on a crazy experience that found me getting off a plane in Vegas and not completing the trip. At the time, it was this mortifying and awkward moment, but now, I can look back and laugh hysterically. I just found it such a great parallel for my journey and the journey of a single woman in general. We all have this idea of where we think we'll end up or where we're supposed to end up, and where we actually end up is rarely anything like that picture.

But what is so great about life is it usually turns out a million times better than what we ever would have expected. So

I wanted to hit on the point that I may not have ended up where I thought I would, but I ended up where I belong. I hope that, by sharing these stories, I encourage other women and remind them that no matter where they are or how crazy things might seem, there is significance to everything. They will end up where they're meant to.

Related Link: [Finding Your True Destiny After Losing Love](#)

Since you refer to your stories as “Mishaps and Miracles on the Road to Happily Ever After, “ we’d love to know: How do you personally define “happily ever after?”

For me, happiness is a choice. It's realizing that “happily ever after” is one unforgettable adventure at a time, not some far off destination. Single women often think their ultimate goal is to be married and ride off in the sunset with Mr. Right. I think that's great, but you don't have to wait for that to happen to find happiness in the here and now. And honestly, if you don't find happiness in the here and now, I feel that ultimately hurts your ability to eventually attract someone to share in your “happily ever after.”

You share some personal secrets and struggles in your book. Did you find reliving some of these experiences challenging?

I'll be honest, it was absolutely terrifying at moments. Writing it, re-writing it, editing it, reading it for the book tape...I definitely got to a point when I wanted to be done reliving some of the stories I share!

But in the same respect, I found it helpful. Knowing some significant people from my past are basically reading my diary is really scary; I've compared it to standing naked in Times Square. But in order to make an impact, I believe you have to go to those places. If even one person is encouraged to make a positive change based on something I went through, it will be totally worth it to me.

Have you ever found dating difficult because of what you write about for a living?

I'm actually struggling through this right now! It's hard to know sometimes if a guy is just totally freaked out about what I do or if he's just not that into me. Dating in a normal situation is challenging enough, so dating in the situation I'm in makes it even more difficult. I feel like men often think I've essentially branded myself "single" for life, but unless you see me walking around dressed as a nun, I'm not planning on staying single forever. I would love to be married and have a family one day, but my heart will always be to inspire single women, and that's why the blog is called the "The Single Woman."

Related Link: [Is He In It For the Long Haul?](#)

So what's the best advice you could give a single woman looking for love?

First of all, make sure you're open to love. I encourage all women to be confident, strong, and independent, but I also think that in order to find love, you have to break down some of your walls and be vulnerable at times. Single women often get in the habit of doing everything and taking care of everything themselves, and it's important to step back and remember that you don't have to rule the world by yourself. You can let your guard down every once in a while and invite someone else in.

That being said, I think it's also important for single women to have a clear sense of self. Be aware of your boundaries and standards, and don't apologize for them. You should never sacrifice who you are to cater to someone's issues or insecurities.

Last but definitely not least, never settle. I feel like women reach a certain age and get so frantic if they're not married; they feel like they should settle for whatever guy is standing

in front of them or risk being alone forever. This is so not the case! When you settle for someone out of fear, you'll eventually regret it. Forever is a long time, and investing your heart, time, and life into a relationship you're not 100 percent about is never a good choice.

*To learn more about Hale, check out her blog, <http://thesinglewoman.net/category/blog/>. Be sure to purchase your copy of *I've Never Been to Vegas, But My Luggage Has* today!*

Neon Trees Singer Tyler Glenn Comes Out as Gay





By April Littleton

According to [People](#), the lead singer of Neon Trees Tyler Glenn opened up about his sexuality, revealing that he was gay. He started sharing the news with loved ones last October. Glenn grew up in a Mormon church and says he's dealt with a "complicated relationship" with religion. "I've always felt like I'm an open book, and yet obviously I haven't been completely," he told *Rolling Stone*. Glenn also explained how he's been inspired by current sport figures openly discussing their sexuality. "I appreciated [that] Michael Sam was like, 'I want to be able to go to the movies and hold hands with my boyfriend.' Even hearing him say 'boyfriend', I was like, 'that's cool.'"

What are some ways to tell your loved ones about the one you love?

Cupid's Advice:

You have someone new in your life, but you're not sure how your family and friends will react to the news. You don't want

to avoid telling your loved ones about your new significant other – especially if they might find out the news from someone else. Cupid is here to help:

1. Ease your way in: Don't just blurt out the news about your new partner right away. Have a general conversation with your family like you normally would do. Ask about their day, tell them how you're doing, etc. When you feel like the discussion is going well, then bring up your love life.

Related: [Austin Mahone Denies Dating Selena Gomez](#)

2. Remain calm: The worst thing you can do is freak your family out before even sharing the news. Keep a cool, calm attitude toward them. All you have to do is tell them you're seeing someone new. Yes, you might feel a little nervous, but your loved ones shouldn't have the feeling that something is wrong.

Related: [Taylor Swift Says She Doesn't Write Songs About Every Guy She Dates](#)

3. Talk positive: Once you've told them the news, let them know how happy you are with your new love. The only thing that should matter to your family and friends is your happiness. If you're enjoying the time you spend with your new partner, they should be OK with the relationship.

What are some other ways to tell your loved ones about the one you love? Comment below.

Signs Your Crush Is Into You



By April Littleton

You're crushing hard on someone, but you're not sure if they feel the same way about you. Could you be misreading the signs? Or does your future boo have the same feelings as you do? To help you out, Cupid came up with a few tips:

1. Attentive: Your crush pays attention to you – and only you. If you don't see your potential honey showing interest in anyone else, then he might be ready to make things official with you. Think back on some of the conversations the two of you have had together. Does he show curiosity about your life? What kind of questions does he ask you? He's into you if the two of you can discuss certain topics and situations on a deeper level.

2. His friends know about you: Your boo has told all of his friends about you. Most people don't disclose information

about their love life to close friends and family unless it's getting serious. Also, your honey is dropping major hints if you actually meet some of the gang.

Related: [How Weight Can Affect Your Love Life](#)

3. Showers you with compliments: If your crush is constantly reminding you of how great you look, how funny you are, etc, he feels the same way you do. When a guy says something positive about you, he usually means it. Don't over think it. Just thank him and believe what he says. After all, it's rare to find someone who appreciates the little things about another person.

4. He's around often: Wherever you are, your crush isn't too far behind. Your guy is into you if he is constantly asking you out on dates. Does he check in on you via text when the two of you aren't together? How often do you spend time with him? When your new man chooses to be around you even when he doesn't have to be, that's a sign he's interested in taking the relationship a little further.

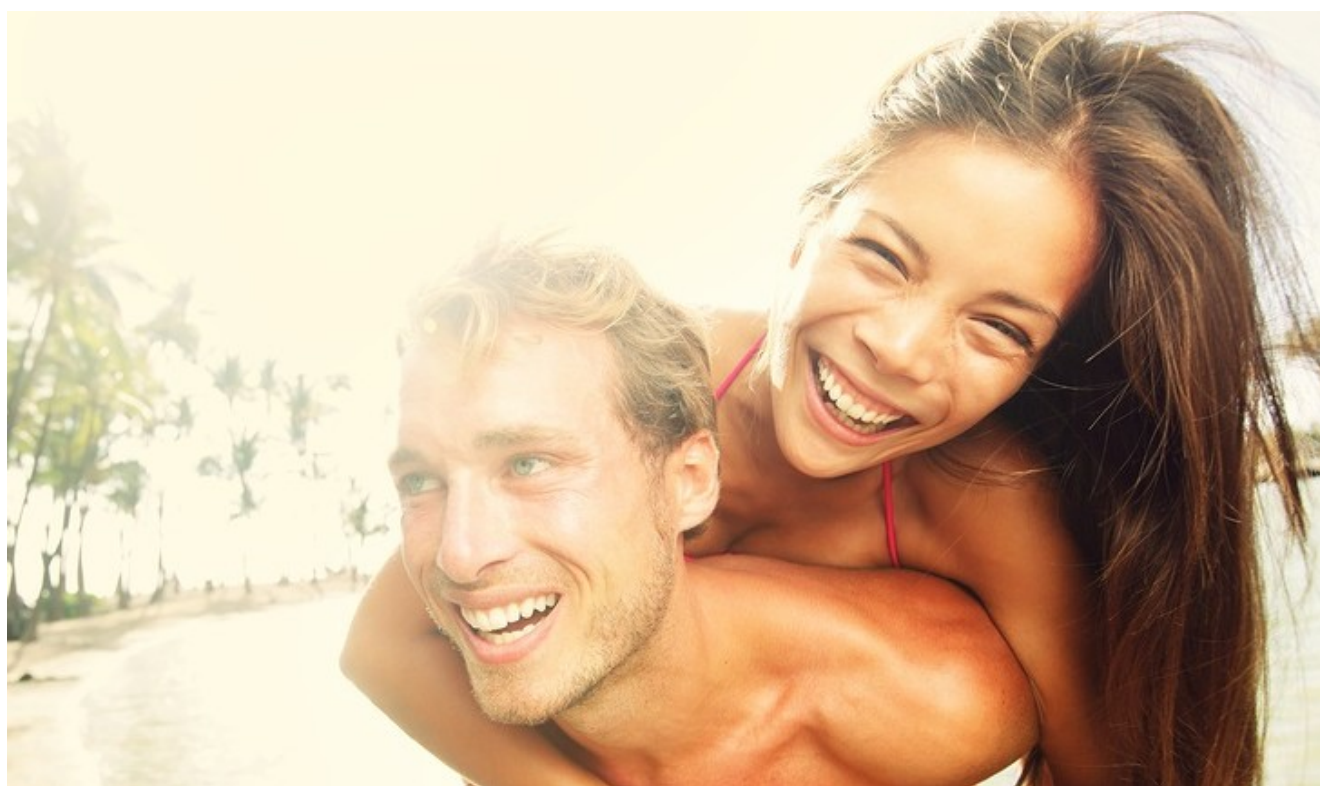
Related: [The Pros and Cons of a Whirlwind Romance](#)

5. Surprises: Most people don't go out of there way to make someone smile unless they enjoy their company. If your crush surprises you with flowers or other sweet items, he's trying to show you his feelings without actually saying the words.

6. Body language: How close do the two of you get in a private setting? Do you hold hands? Are the hugs he gives you merely platonic, or does the body contact feel a bit more intimate? You can tell a lot about how a person feels based on their body language. Don't let a romantic opportunity pass you by because you're missing the signs.

What are some other signs your crush is into you? Comment below.

How to Get Over the Relationship Blues



By April Littleton

When a relationship goes sour, sometimes it's hard to pick up the pieces and move on. You can be sad for days, weeks and even months. Don't let the relationship blues get the best of you. Cupid is here to help:

1. Support system: The easiest and fastest way to get over the relationship blues is by interacting with another person. Talk to your family and friends about the feelings you're going through. The more natural thing to do is to avoid people, but

your problems won't go away if you don't talk about them.

2. Get back to normal: Get out of bed and live your life. Go back to work. Go out with some friends. Think about getting active at your local gym. The quicker you're back on your feet, the sooner you'll start to feel like your old self again.

Related: [Can You Be Single and Still Have a Soulmate?](#)

3. Laugh: The best cure for a broken heart is laughter. When you're feeling down, pop in your favorite comedy movie or read a funny book. Rather than focus on all of the negative aspects of your love life, think about all of the things you have to smile about.

4. Don't give up: Don't give up at the first sign of trouble. Your last relationship might not have worked out, but you'll have so many other opportunities for love in the near future. Don't write off every new individual you meet. At the same time, don't start up a new romance right away either. Before you put your heart back on the line again, take the time to get back to loving yourself first.

Related: [How Weight Can Affect Your Love Life](#)

5. Let it go: You won't be able to move on with your life if you're constantly stuck in the past. You learn to let go of your ex by relieving yourself of any old feelings you might still have lingering. If you don't feel like you received the right closure, let your former flame know and have that final talk. Otherwise, stop thinking about them. Guaranteed they let you go a long time ago – especially if they're the one who called it quits in the first place.

6. Try something new: Pick up a new hobby, or change your hairstyle. Many people find that switching things up a little helps them get over any problems they have going on. You don't have to try anything too dramatic. However, it won't hurt to

try short hair if you've been rocking long locks since you can remember. You could also do something a little more low-key, like a simple wardrobe change.

Related: [The Pros and Cons of a Whirlwind Romance](#)

7. Music: Music is the key to the soul – at least for some people anyway. Listen to a song that would describe exactly how you're feeling. If you play yourself, write your own lyrics and come up with your own melody. Music is a great way to express creativity and how you're feeling.

How did you get over the relationship blues? Share your experience below.

Can You Be Single and Still Have a Soulmate?





By Sarah Ribeiro

We hear it all the time: Your soulmate is out there. You'll meet your Prince Charming some day. Don't give up on finding true love. For single ladies, these statements can be some of the most hopeful pieces of advice...but they can also be soul-crushing to hear. What if you already found The One and lost him? Or what if your perfect match lives halfway across the country – or worse, the world? Is it even possible to be single and have a soulmate? Of course it is. Here are five tips for singles looking for lasting love:

1. You are loved: Who says your soulmate has to be a partner or the love of your life in a romantic way? A soulmate is someone who supports you through everything, loves you unconditionally, and would do anything for you – and you are the same to them. Whether this person comes in the form of a significant other, a roommate, a best friend, a sibling, or a parent, you have a soulmate in some form.

As spiritual counselor and transformational healer Audrey Hope

puts it, soulmate love is just a different kind of love. “A soulmate love is not the same as dating. It is a science that requires one to follow higher sacred laws, a system of truth, and integrity. You will find him or her if you do what needs to be done.”

Related Link: [Fantasy Dating: How to Play The Game Right](#)

2. Your love is waiting: Whether you’re 20, 40, 60, or 80, there’s always a chance that you’ll find the love of your life at an unexpected time. You just need to stop limiting yourself. “The most important element in being single and wanting that soulmate is to be open to doing things differently,” says relationship therapist Denise C. Onofrey, MA, NCC, MFTC. “Be open-minded about who comes your way and have some deal breakers, but don’t be so rigid you miss out on love.”

3. Don’t be shy about your search: Onofrey recommends marketing yourself to find love. “Tell friends, family, casual acquaintances, and, if appropriate, your co-workers that you are willing to be matched with someone they recommend.” After all, you can’t find a soulmate if no one knows you’re looking!

4. Love yourself: You’re never going to find love if you don’t take the time to appreciate yourself first. Find activities that interest you and do them – even if it means doing them alone. Not only will you better get to know your self, you’ll give yourself the chance to meet new people whose interests align with your own. Who knows? Maybe you’ll find the love of your life while you’re taking trapeze lessons or learning to speak French.

Plus, you may find that you can give yourself the kind of love and entertainment that you’ve always expected from a partner. “Don’t miss out on a great event, restaurant, or holiday party because you don’t have a date,” says Onofrey. “Go anyway! Live your life fully whether you’re partnered or not.”

Related Link: [Are You Too Young For Marriage?](#)

5. You're never alone: Even if you're single, remember that you're loved, and that "single" is not synonymous with "alone." Plus, you can have more than one soulmate, so stop harping on lost love and look forward to what's yet to come. "The love that is your equal, the love that is necessary for your life and work will always find you," explains Hope. "There's not just one soulmate for each person. There is love that needs to be with you perhaps for a season, maybe a lifetime, or possibly forever, but it will be what serves your highest soul."

Tell us: How did you know when you met your soulmate?

Girl's Night Movie Pick of the Week: 'The Single Moms Club'





By April Littleton

Written, produced and directed by Tyler Perry, *The Single Moms Club* follows five single women on their personal journeys of self-discovery. The ladies are brought together by an accident at their children's school. They create a support group that helps them get through some of life's most challenging situations through the use of comedic relief and the strength they have in each other.

Should you see it:

Tyler Perry fans will be the first in line to see this film, but if you're unfamiliar with his work, take a look at some of the cast. Some well-known faces include Amy Smart, Nia Long, Terry Crews and William Levy. If any of those names ring a bell and you've enjoyed some of their previous work, consider taking a trip down to your local theater when *The Single Moms Club* premieres.

Who to take:

This movie is definitely all about girl power. Grab a group of your best girl friends for a Saturday night of fun. Of course, you can always drag your significant other along if you'd prefer to save this film for a couples' date night.

Related: ['Pompeii' is the Perfect Couples Night Movie](#)

What are some ways to date responsibly as a single parent?

Cupid's Advice:

As a single parent, getting back into the dating world can be hard to do. You have to think about yourself, your new partner and your child(ren). You don't have to give up completely. You can have a romantic life again and still be the best parent you can be. Just listen to your instincts and follow a few tips. Cupid is here to help:

1. Take your time: When you're just starting out on the dating scene again, there is no need to rush any potential relationship. Take your time and get to know the other person well before you make any solid commitments. You have a child. Keep that mind. You shouldn't bring different people in and out of your kid's life. He/she doesn't need to be any more confused than they already are.

2. Communicate with your kid(s): Your child(ren) need to know what's going on (if they're old enough to understand) in your life. Before you go out on any dates, explain to them what you're going to be doing and make sure it's OK with them. Reassure them they won't have to worry about having a step parent anytime soon, and you're only trying to get to know someone on a more adult level.

Related: [How to Date when You're a Single Parent](#)

3. Consider feelings: If you decide to introduce your child(ren) to your new partner, make sure you realize this situation is a new experience for everyone. Your kid(s) and

your new boo will need time to adjust to each other. Don't pack on the PDA in front of your family. Help everyone ease into this new relationship by keeping it cool.

How did you date responsibly as a single parent? Share your experience below.

How to Date when You're a Single Parent



By April Littleton

Being a single parent has its challenges – especially when it comes to dating. When you're raising children on your own or

co-parenting, getting back into the dating pool is hard. You're not sure how your kids will adapt to someone new hanging around. Plus, is it even worth it to try to give your heart to someone else? Cupid has some tips:

1. Take your time

You don't have to rush into a relationship with anyone. You have your kids to think about and they don't need to be introduced to a new person every single week. When you're ready to start dating again, take it slow. Don't worry about what other people think. You start to date when you feel like it's the right time, not when anyone else says you should start testing the waters again.

2. Explain to your kids

When you do start to see someone new, you need to prepare your children for the situation. Whether they are too young to understand what you're telling them or not, you still need to let them know you're going to spending some time with her person who isn't their mother/father. Reassure them that the new love in your life isn't there to take the place of their other parent, but you're simply hanging out with someone else on a romantic level. Your children will have plenty of questions. Try your best to answer each one of them honestly without getting into any specific details about your love life.

Related: [The Do's and Dont's of Speed Dating](#)

3. Introduction

You obviously don't need someone who you've only been dating for a short time to meet your children. However, if things get serious between you and your new potential love interest, you need to start thinking about introducing your honey to the other important people in your life. Make sure your new

boyfriend/girlfriend already knows about your kids (that should have been one of the first things you told them when you first started dating) before you set up a date for the whole gang to meet. When the day does come for the outing, make sure you keep the activities fun, short and to the point.

Related: [How to Handle a Clingy Partner in a Relationship](#)

4. Be courteous

Be careful how much PDA you should – especially in front of your children. Everyone will need to adjust to you dating someone new, so make sure to avoid any situations that could be uncomfortable and/or hurtful to your kids. Also, your new partner might not be too fond of the idea of the two of you sharing serious affection for each other in public anyway.

5. Keep your past where it belongs

Your ex shouldn't be involved in any part of your love life. Don't bring him/her up unless the reason has something to do with the children you have together. If you want to develop a serious relationship with the new man/woman in your life, they don't need a constant reminder of the feelings you and your former flame once had for each other. You need to start living your life for you and your kids. Who you date has nothing to do with your ex and vice versa.

Do you have any additional advice for a single parent who's dating again? Comment below.

Beware of Sweetheart Scammers

This Valentine's Day



By Becky Frost

Rumor has it that many celebrities have dabbled in online dating. And they're not alone. A recent study has determined that one in ten Americans has used online dating or a mobile dating app in their quest for love. It has steadily gained popularity as many find it an ideal way to meet people and discover a good match for themselves versus more traditional means of dating.

Most online daters have the best intentions to simply find their soul mate but beware there are unscrupulous suitors who are out to do more than steal your heart. If online dating is on your agenda this Valentine's Day season it's important to be aware of these individuals, labeled by the FBI and

others as “sweetheart scammers.”

Their goal is to swindle money or bank account information from unsuspecting online daters by creating a fake profile designed to match a certain type of person: employed, affluent and trusting. As time goes on the sweetheart scammer will scheme to seem perfect in every way, even down to the same likes and dislikes as the target. Once trust has been established, the scam usually escalates to the thief’s unveiling of a problem involving money. Typical scenarios include the request for funds to be able to travel to meet the target or to help the thief’s sick relative. Love can often blind the victim to only think and act with their heart rather than their head in what otherwise may appear as an obvious scam.

Related: [7 Ways to Know If It’s Really Love](#)

So what can you do to avoid sweetheart scammers? ProtectMyID, a leading provider of identity theft detection, protection and resolution offers up these valuable tips to help protect your online identity and steer clear of fraudulent schemes in the online dating world:

Don’t give away too much: Don’t disclose personally identifiable information with a prospective dating match until there is an established level of familiarity and trust. This also includes your hometown, home addresses, work specifics, phone numbers, educational background and information about children via profiles and through photo identification.

Related: [Technology, Social Media and Dating – The Good, the Bad and the Oops!](#)

Play detective: Don’t assume that a prospective dating match always will be truthful. Ask a person to tell you about him or herself; you then can conduct a little background work on websites and see if conflicting information exists. Also, be wary of any requests for financial loans or assistance of any

kind.

Create the perfect password: For online dating profiles, do not use passwords that incorporate publicly known information.

Related: [Twitter Dating 101: Actions Speak Louder Than Tweets!](#)

While sweetheart scammers definitely operate all year long, they are particularly noticeable this time of year when everyone wants to celebrate romance. These scams are a double whammy for the victim because they are affected both fiscally and emotionally. Online dating can open up your world to true love but approaching it with your eyes wide open is critical to avoid not only heartache, but also becoming a victim of fraud.

Becky Frost is senior manager of consumer education for Experian's ProtectMyID. Check him out at www.protectmyid.com/.

4 Best Practices for Talking to Your Date





By Carl Alasko, PhD

Dating is a complicated, difficult and anxious process – we can't all be contestants on *The Bachelor* with glamorous, network-funded dates and fairy tale endings. And real life just doesn't work that way anyway. It's every bit as stressful for guys as it is for girls. Sure, a guy might just wear a cotton plaid shirt that flaps around and hasn't shaved in a week and the girl might fuss over her wardrobe and makeup for hours—but underneath it all, both are probably equally nervous. Because there's a lot at stake.

Regardless of how your "date" is arranged (friends, internet, work, church, ABC Network...), there are a few basic guidelines that can make the process a little less anxious and more rewarding, and definitely less scary.

Before we even get to the guidelines, here is my absolute most important rule: **Decide in advance what you want to accomplish.**

Clearly Juan Pablo (*The Bachelor*) is looking for a wife and mother for his daughter and the women are hopefully there to find a husband. But if we recall this season's second

episode, Victoria seemed to lose sight of that goal and had a bit too much to drink. So many times we react to something, or we're triggered, and before we know it, out comes a comment (or in this case a slurred mess) that instantly freezes the air—or boils it.

To simplify the overall dating process, and reduce some of the most common errors, I've compiled **Four Guidelines for Talking to Your Date**.

1. Maintain positive or neutral nonverbal gestures and expressions: This requires a certain amount of self-control, and sometimes practice. You may recall the first rose that Juan Pablo gave in episode 1 to Sharleen, the opera singer – and her very aloof response that came off as cold and closed. She smoothed it over next episode apologizing and explaining the reaction was one of shock, not dislike – good recovery. Some of us are naturals, and the rest of us have to put some effort in keeping our facial expressions and movements within the definition of neutral. Leaning too forward is not good. Leaning too far back is not good. Stay in the middle.

Related: [Fantasy Dating: How to Play the Game Right](#)

2. Don't ask invasive, demanding or judgmental questions: When you meet Martin, don't ask, "So, do you like your job, or are you looking for something more fulfilling?" Ouch. What you intended to ask Martin was if he liked his job, right? What you wanted to accomplish was a dialogue. Not an insult. For all initial conversation, **try to keep things neutral and open-ended** like, "So what do you enjoy most about your job?" or "What's the most exciting aspect of working there?"

If your date mentions off-hand that her relationship with her mother has been on the rocks, don't pry it open just then. Return to it slowly, test the waters to see if it's something she wants to explore with you.

Related: [Your First Date: What it Will Cost](#)

3. Don't be vague about your intentions; explicitly and strategically state your needs: This means that if you're really looking for someone solid and long-term, sometime after a few dates you need to say that's your goal. Why waste weeks, months, years with Bradley if all he really cares about are sports and beer? If you're a single mother looking for not just a husband but a father for your daughter, don't hide it.

4. Follow your instincts and be ready to leave if things get uncomfortable: While you don't have to bolt for the door at the first sign of anxiety, if the anxiousness goes on for more than a couple dates, listen to your intuition. If Victoria's heavy drinking scares you, don't try to be her therapist. You're not qualified, and it's a lousy job. Just move on. If Mike's constant leering and sexual comments scare you, tell him you're not a good fit, and don't meet again.

Related: [How to Date Outside the Box in NYC](#)

Because so much can be riding on that first meeting, having a few basic guidelines in mind can save you a lot of distress. Repeat these guidelines to yourself, and ask a trusted friend to do some rehearsing, or to be available to de-brief if things get tricky. And they can save you from wasting time.

*Author of Emotional Bullshit, Beyond Blame, and his newest release SAY THIS, NOT THAT: A Foolproof Guide to Effective Interpersonal Communication, **Dr. Carl Alasko** writes a weekly blog for the Experts' online section of Psychology Today, which attracts thousands of readers, and his weekly newspaper column "On Relationships" has run in the Monterey County Herald for fifteen consecutive years.*

Bradley Cooper and Girlfriend Suki Waterhouse Go Public at Sundance



By April Littleton

According to [People](#), **Bradley Cooper and girlfriend Suki Waterhouse have finally gone public** with their romance. The lovebirds attended the Sundance Film Festival together in Park City, Utah. They were spotted strolling down the street, while holding hands.

When is it the right time to go public with a new relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Love is in the air. This may be true indeed, but sometimes, you just don't feel like sharing all of your happiness with everyone else. Keeping a new relationship under wraps for awhile is perfectly acceptable, but eventually you'll have to spill the beans to someone. Cupid has some tips:

1. You've dated long enough: If you've dated your partner for longer than five months, then it's definitely time to let the world know about your new romance. Everyone deserves their privacy and you don't have to give away every single detail about your relationship, but wouldn't you like to spill a little gossip to your best friend? Being able to confide in someone about your new honey will eventually be a necessity when you least expect it.

Related: [Find Out About Demi Moore's New Guy](#)

2. Feels right: Everything about your relationship just feels right. The two of you want the same things in life, have similar goals and share some common interests. When you find someone so close to being your perfect match, you'll want to share the good news with your friends and family – and possibly the whole world.

Related: [New Couple? Courteney Cox Takes Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid to Jennifer Aniston's Party](#)

3. Ask your significant other: Even though you might be ready to go public with your relationship, your partner might not feel the same way. Before you start blowing up all of your friends social media news feeds about the change in your love life, ask your honey how he/she feels about it first.

How did you know when it was the right time to go public with a new relationship? Share your experience below.

Zac Efron Stars in New Film, 'That Awkward Moment'



By April Littleton

Directed by Tom Gormican, *That Awkward Moment* follows three best friends through all of the stages that come with dating someone new. The film stars Zac Efron, Miles Teller, Imogen Poots and Michael B. Jordan.

Should you see it:

Comedy fans will get a kick out of this new film. Plus, if

you're familiar with any other movies Zac Efron or Miles Teller starred in, you surely won't be disappointed with *That Awkward Moment*.

Who to take:

That Awkward Moment is rated R for sexual content and language throughout. Make sure whoever you decide to drag along with you to the movies is within the appropriate age group. You can see this movie with a girlfriend/boyfriend, with a group of some of your closest friends or you maybe you might prefer to take yourself out on a little date. The choice is up to you.

Related: [The Price You Pay for a 'Free Ride' Can End Up Being Your Last](#)

How do you know when it's time to take your relationship to the next level?

Cupid's Advice:

Dating someone new can be tricky. You have to learn everything about that one specific person – their likes and dislikes, what their goals are, etc. When you're feelings for your partner begin to develop further, finding out if they feel the same way about you is another challenge all on its own. Cupid has some tips:

1. Communicate: How you're feeling about the status of your new relationship won't matter if you don't share them with your partner. When you're ready, talk to your honey about maybe taking it up a notch. The easier it is to communicate with your boo, the stronger the two of you will become as a couple.

2. Take your time: You don't need to rush how you feel, especially if you haven't been dating your partner for that long. Before you decide to fully commit to the relationship, take the time to figure out if what you're feeling is the real

deal.

Related: [Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens Split](#)

3. You just know: Sometimes you just know when you're ready to get serious with another person. You may be in love. If you can't stop thinking about your significant other, you miss them when they're away or you just simply can't imagine being with another person, then it might be time to take your relationship to the next level.

How did you know when it was time to take your relationship to the next level? Share your experience below.

'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' Hits Theaters on Christmas Day





By April Littleton

Ben Stiller stars and directs in this film based on James Thurber's short story about a daydreamer who escapes reality by sinking into his world of fantasies that involves romance, action and heroism. Walter decides to stop living in his imaginary world when his job, along with his co-worker's, becomes threatened.

Should you see it:

Ben Stiller fans and Kristen Wiig fans won't have a doubt in their minds about seeing this film. Also, if you have no set plans for the holidays, why not spend the day enjoying a new comedy at your favorite movie theater?

Who to take:

If it's possible, bring the whole family along with you when you're ready to hit up the nearest Cinemark. After all, it is the holidays. You can fly solo if that's what you prefer or if your loved ones are out of town. This film would be good to

see with a boyfriend/girlfriend who has a good sense of humor as well.

Related: [Get Ready to Celebrate the Holidays with 'A Madea Christmas'](#)

How do you build up the courage to ask the person you're interested in on a date?

Cupid's Advice:

Putting yourself out there to another person can be tricky, especially if you're shy or you've experienced a recent heartbreak. Everyone who has experience with the game of love knows that rejection isn't a fun feeling to experience, but sometimes it's worth it. You don't want to be left wondering 'what if', and at least you'll have an idea of where you stand with your crush. Cupid has some tips:

1. Be straightforward: Don't play games with a potential love interest. If you're considering another person on a romantic level, let them know how you feel. Being open and honest is considered a turn-on, so don't be shy and go after what you want.

2. Show you're interested: Your crush won't know that anything is different between the two of you if you don't show or express your feelings. Make sure you're making clear that you're interested in them. Call them from time to time. Get to know them on a more personal level. Ask them out for coffee or a simple lunch date. You don't have to move too fast, but you do want to make sure the feelings you have for them are reciprocated. Also, keep in mind that you need to move forward with the relationship at a pace comfortable for both you and your potential honey.

Related: [Ben Stiller Says Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux Are Happy](#)

3. Be creative: When it comes to date ideas, you want to keep things simple for awhile. That doesn't mean you can't spice things up and come up with something unique. As you start to get to know your boo, incorporate some of the things they like with your dates. If your love interest is really into the outdoors, go on a hike or try out a mountain bike trail. Visit a local museum if he/she enjoys culture and fine arts.

How did you build up the courage to ask the person you're interested in on a date? Share your experience below.

What to Do when He is Still Dating Others





By April Littleton

You're in love, but the person you're dating might not feel the same way. In fact, you just found out he's still fooling around with other women. A situation like this can be tricky to handle – especially if you haven't been seeing your man for that long. How do you get the point across that you want a commitment without scaring him off? When do you decide to walk away from the relationship altogether? Cupid has some advice:

1. Do the same: At this point in time, your partner might not be ready to commit to you. He may be focused on other things such as school, a career, etc. Instead of stressing over him not making you a priority, start getting back out on the dating scene. If he's still seeing other people, you shouldn't put all of your focus and time solely on him when he's obviously not doing the same for you. Keep yourself open to new possibilities and new love interests. You never know, someone who's ready for a serious commitment might be waiting for you just around the corner.

Related: [Dating with an Age Gap](#)

2. Keep busy: Don't sit and wait around for your boyfriend to call or text you. Continue on with your daily routine. Your life shouldn't revolve around another person – especially if that certain individual isn't seeking an exclusive relationship with you. If your man wants you, he should show it and fight for you. When he realizes you're no longer waiting around for him and you're not going to be a second choice, he'll either get his act together or you'll be free to find someone who's worth your time.

3. Read the signs: A man who wants to be with you will do whatever it takes to do so. Does your guy call and/or text you often when the two of you aren't together? If not, he's probably using that time apart to connect with other people. Have you met his family? Do your loved ones like him? The first step to a serious commitment is the approval of both parties family and friends. You don't want to be with a guy who hasn't introduced you to the important people in his life. If the two of you are constantly doing things by yourself and you haven't met anyone else in his life, he isn't serious about you and you need to rethink the status of the "relationship."

Related: [Ways to Help Single Friends Find a Partner](#)

4. Talk it out: Your significant other may not be aware that an exclusive relationship is what you're after. If the two of you have been an item for awhile and he's still seeing other women on the side, have a talk with him first before you call it quits. Let him know how you're feeling about the situation. Tell him if he wants to continue being with you, he must stop dating around. A serious commitment might not be on his mind right now and if that's the case you need to find a way to move on. Don't keep yourself in a situation you know isn't going to work out in your favor.

What are some other things you can do when your man is still dating others? Comment below.

Ways to Help Single Friends Find a Partner



By Leslie Chavez

We all think very highly of our closest girlfriends, so when one of them is single we naturally want to find a partner for them who is just as intelligent, kind, funny, sophisticated and attractive as they are. Although we mean well, sometimes our good-intentions can be misconstrued as offensive and slightly irksome. As someone who is well acquainted with being set up by happily coupled friends, trust me when I say there are certain ways to go about finding that special mate for your BFF. So before you get all Millionaire Matchmaker

Patti Stanger on me, consider these alternative approaches to helping your friends find romance.

Try a new activity together

Sometimes your friends need your help in yanking them out of their comfort zone. Trying new activities or learning a new skill is a great way to meet guys. Ask her what kind of class she's always wanted to take but didn't have the courage to do alone. Maybe a comedy class or surfing lessons, somewhere where there will be plenty of guys around to "help" you and your friend out with that new technique you've been learning. This way the pressure is off and your friend can naturally meet a guy who shares some of the same interests as her, all while having a great time practicing a new hobby with you. If she does find someone she is interested in, suggest that you all go out for drinks after class.

Related: [Dating with an Age Gap](#)

Take control of her online dating profile

If your friend really trusts you and she is comfortable with this, offer to be her online dating advisor. You will be able to give her a different perspective on those online suitors she's been ignoring. Encourage her to be more open to guys she wouldn't normally go for; she might not know what she's been missing. While you're at it, spruce up her profile. Lauren Ware, Match.com's professional online dating profile writer suggests, getting specific, "when you want to use an adjective to describe yourself, think of an anecdote or example that shows how you embody that trait." Grab a bottle of pinot noir and the two of you can turn it into a fun evening of reconnection and reminiscence. Your friend will have a fresh approach to online dating to boot.

Related: [Celebrities Who Met on Blind Dates](#)

Have a party

Have you had your eye on your athletic co-worker with the curly, brown hair or that blue-eyed barista who greets you every morning, thinking they would be perfect for your friend? Have a party and invite them! This isn't an episode of *The Bachelorette*, so don't start lining up roses for your friend to give away at the end of the night just yet. Take a step back and construct a little plan. You can't just invite cute guys. Invite everyone; friends from work, neighbors and your single friend of course. When the party is in full swing, casually introduce your friend to her potential date(s) and let the chemistry take care of the rest. But remember, try not to put too much pressure on the connection. If there are no sparks, then you have to let it go. Look at it as a reason to have another party.

Have you helped a single friend find a partner before? Share your experience below.

Dating with an Age Gap





By April Littleton

Many people find themselves attracted to others who are older and/or younger than them. Dating someone who isn't the exact same age as you isn't uncommon. In fact, it's almost rare to find a couple who don't have an age gap between them. This doesn't mean that dating someone who's a different age doesn't have its challenges. Sure, you'll have plenty in common with your new boo, but you might also have quite a few differences. Cupid has some advice:

- 1. Be sure:** Whether you're dating someone older or younger than you, you need to be 100 percent sure that you want to be with that person. Why are you dating this specific individual? Do you see it going anywhere? Will the age difference ultimately affect your relationship? If there's a huge difference in age, the two of you as a couple might not see eye-to-eye. One of you might be ready to settle down, while the other is still wanting to play the field a little. Just be sure the person you're devoting your time to is worth the hassle.

Related: [What to Do When Politics Interfere with Your Relationship](#)

2. Find common ground: If you're going to try to make the relationship last, you and your partner need to communicate early on what your goals and interests are. Find some hobbies you and your honey can enjoy together. Discuss whether or not you're looking for something more long-term, or if you're just taking it day-by-day. Make sure you really dig deep into each other's lives. Watch your significant other's favorite movie, eat the food he/she enjoys, etc. You might come to find that you have a lot more in common with your love than you think.

Related: [5 Tips to Dating Someone with a Potty Mouth](#)

3. Don't make it a big deal: Many of your friends and family members might do a double take when you tell them how old your partner is, but the trick is to act like it's no big deal. Don't act any differently around your honey than you would anyone else. If he/she is younger than you, don't try to act as if you know all of the new slang words people tend to use. If he/she is older, don't pretend to be anymore mature than you are. The two of you are together for a reason. He/she obviously likes you for who you are. Be yourself around your significant other and everyone else will follow suit – regardless of how young or old they are.

Have you ever dated with an age gap? Share your experience below.

Taylor Swift Says, "I Only

Write Songs About Crazy, Emotional Love”



By April Littleton

According to [People](#), When it comes to her songwriting inspirations, Taylor Swift has let plenty of ex-boyfriends off the hook. “I only write songs about crazy love,” Swift told *New York Magazine*. “If I go on two dates with a guy and we don’t click, I’m not writing a song about that. It didn’t matter in the emotional grand scheme of things.” Exes of Swift, 23, include Jake Gyllenhaal, Harry Styles and John Mayer.

What are some ways to use music to cope with a broken heart?

Cupid’s Advice:

Dealing with a broken heart can feel unbearable at times – especially if you weren't the one who wanted the relationship to end. Every individual handles a breakup in their own way, but music seems to be a common form of self-therapy. Cupid has some tips:

1. Get creative: If you're musically inclined, think about writing your own song or creating your own depending on what instrument you play. You can make your own heartbreak song or try something a little more positive – think Destiny's Child's *Survivor*.

Related: [Taylor Swift Disses Harry Styles at VMA Awards](#)

2. Listen to your favorites: For some unknown reason, music tends to make the heart happy and can make almost any individual who isn't feeling their best see the bright side of things. While you're taking a long, random drive, listen to some of your favorite songs. By the time you put your car in park, you should be feeling a little better about your breakup.

3. Make a game out of it: Play only one song per day that represents the mood you're in. As the days progress, you should be in better spirits and the songs you choose should be a little more upbeat and inspiring. Don't let yourself stay in a rut. You can get through this. Let the music be your outlet.

Related: [Richard Gere and Carey Lowell Call it Quits](#)

Miley Cyrus Says Being Single

Is 'The Best Time of My Life'



By Kerri Sheehan

Being single doesn't mean she's looking for anybody! Since Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth's September 2013 split, the 20-year-old pop star has been taking the music industry by storm. According to UsMagazine.com, the *Wrecking Ball* singer doesn't want her breakup with Hemsworth to overshadow all of her success. "This is the best time of my life. I'm not going to look back on it and be like, 'I wish I hadn't been dwelling over a breakup,' you know?" After being with Hemsworth for four years, Cyrus is enjoying the **single** life.

What are some advantages to being single?

Cupid's Advice:

Being lonely in a relationship is worse than **being single**. Here are some advantages to being single:

1. You do you: When you're single you'll have loads of time to work on yourself. You won't have to answer to anybody or worry about constantly keeping another person happy. If you're looking for some extended "me time" then single life may be perfect for you.

2. Get to know your friends: Women tend to meet all of their closest girlfriends when they're single, so take this time to reconnect with your BFFs. Plan a girl-only get away so you can really soak up **being single**.

3. Family time: No matter how old you are it's always the perfect time to reconnect with your family. They're the one group of people who will always be there for you so now that you're not attached you have even more time to appreciate the awesome people that they are. Show your love by really getting to know them better.

What do you like about being single? Share below.

Your First Date: What It Will Cost





By Stephanie Lynch

When it comes to a first date, there are so many things to think about. What are you going to wear? Where the heck are we going? What will they think of me? With so many things rumbling through the mind, there is one thing many people often forget – the costs.

Now, while you don't want to be too cheap, you don't want to spend too much money either. Since most guys are expected to pay for most, if not all of the date, this simple guide should give you an idea on how much money you should plan on spending so that you don't look like the cheapest date on the block.

Who invited who?

First off, if the girl invites the guy, there's a good chance she won't expect him to pay for 100 percent of the meal. However, if the tables are turned and the guy invites the girl, then the girl will more than likely expect the date to foot the entire bill. Keep this tip in mind.

Related: [How to Date Outside the Box in NYC](#)

The atmosphere

When choosing a place to eat, make sure you pick out a place that is quiet and enables you to talk with your date. This way, you don't have to yell over loud music or people screaming next to you. Even if you don't want to head to a restaurant on your first date, that's okay. Most of the time, a coffee house will suffice.

The dinner

No date isn't going to be complete without a dinner. While 99 percent of the first dates out there often head to a restaurant, there may be a select few that want to have a meal cooked inside of a home. If you plan on eating out, try to stick to a higher-end restaurant that isn't too fancy. Try to avoid your name brand chain restaurants and obviously stay away from the fast food joints.

On average, be prepared to spend at least \$50 to \$75 at a minimum for a nice dinner. This should include two nice entrees, a few glasses of wine and maybe even a dessert and appetizer. Of course, this is going to depend on the restaurant, geographical location and the meals you're choosing.

Now, don't head to a \$100 a plate restaurant off the bat. If you do, your date may expect the same kind of treatment every time you head out. Instead, try to stick with something that you're comfortable with. Don't forget to ask your date what they are interested in when it comes to food. It would be silly to take them to a seafood place when they have an allergy to fish.

Related: [Fantasy Dating: How to Play the Game Right](#)

Tip: Don't know where to go for dinner? Try popular review websites such as UrbanSpoon.com, TripAdvisor.com or Yelp. This is a great way to find the hot spots in your local area.

If you're going to take the tips mentioned above and choose a coffee place instead, consider purchasing a drink and a light snack. Most of the time, this shouldn't be more than \$20. In the end, plan on budgeting according to where you plan on going. Most of the time, your date should be deemed successful if you spend around \$50 to \$75 on the entire meal. Just remember: Don't go overboard and keep your date in mind!

Stephanie works for howmuchisit.org – a large collection of cost helping resources. If you ever want to know what something costs, be sure to keep her resource in mind.